

ANNEX 3: IDP Protection Risk Assessment Tool in Government-led Solutions Processes

Purpose: The purpose of this note is to provide a methodology for developing a joint protection risk assessment tool for use by the RC and the UN CT/HCT in the context of government-led solutions processes for IDPs. The objective of the tool is to identify particular risks related to solutions initiatives, including groups that may be left behind, and to recommend mitigation measures. It is not meant to be a comprehensive overview of the protection environment in a country or duplicate the essential analysis of the Protection Cluster and protection actors.

In line with the [recommendations](#) of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the Secretary-General’s [Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#) emphasizes the importance of adopting government-led, development-oriented approaches to solutions. As part of this, the Special Adviser to the SG on Solutions to Internal Displacement identified the creation of a protection risk assessment tool to apply in the context of government-led solutions efforts as a concrete deliverable to help advance the objectives of the Action Agenda.

Achieving solutions is the ultimate protection outcome.¹ Nonetheless, the pursuit of solutions can lead to protection risks, while humanitarian protection activities do not necessarily generate lasting outcomes. There is a need to ensure that solutions initiatives do not leave segments of the population further behind or create new protection risks, just as there is a need to orient protection interventions toward achieving progress on solutions.

The Protection Risk Assessment Tool is meant to result in a short document (no more than three pages) in table format that presents information in a manner that is accessible to protection specialists and non-specialists alike. The exercise requires contributions from a wide range of both protection and development actors to ensure “joint ownership” of the resulting analysis and suggested ways forward that are both principled and pragmatic.

N.B. The methodology herein is dynamic and will be updated and refined as more countries continue to test the tool and gather experiences/ lessons.

Methodology:

Under the leadership of the RC and as service for the UN country team, the tool is intended to be initiated in a consultative way by UNHCR, with substantive inputs from key actors – especially those engaged in durable solutions processes/mechanisms. It is intended to focus on areas relevant to proposed or ongoing solution initiatives and the communities that will be impacted, either directly or indirectly. The following methodology serves as a baseline for completing the template below and can be adapted based on context.

1. Conduct a light [desk review](#) with available information and data to look at identified protection risks, as well as major gaps in the protection environment that are directly relevant to solutions initiatives.² The desk review should draw from existing protection monitoring and reporting but also bring in other core material related to development, peace-building and governance. Review material such as:
 - Government documents, including laws and policies on internal displacement; Solutions strategies, plans, and frameworks; national and local development plans; peace agreements/strategies (if applicable); UPR submissions, etc.
 - Existing protection analysis and reporting, starting with Protection Cluster products (in contexts where clusters are activated), including:

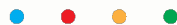
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- Protection Analysis Updates that are informed by a multi-partner analysis process, including quarterly protection risk prioritisation for specific population groups;³
 - Advocacy notes and briefing documents produced by the Protection Cluster and protection actors (such as UNHCR protection briefs), that are both public and non-public, and Global Protection Cluster country updates;
 - Broader available reporting, including by OHCHR and various Special Rapporteurs (including but not limited to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons), UN Security Council reports, and reports by civil society groups and advocacy organisations (e.g., Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Refugees International, etc.).
 - Development strategies such as UNSDCFs, UN Common Country Analysis, MDB country strategies – such as World Bank Country Partnership Frameworks, WB ESF, UNDP Conflict and Development Analysis, etc.
2. Meet with and gather input from civil society groups and other relevant actors, including protection actors such as national human rights institutions, as well as development actors, including UNDP, Multilateral Development Banks, government donors, etc.
 3. Utilize available information from consultations with communities and carry out additional consultations, if needed, to validate or adjust key findings of the analysis, ensuring the views of displaced people and local communities are at the center.
 4. Use relevant themes to guide analysis in identifying key protection risks in the context of solutions initiatives, including, first and foremost, whether government-led solutions efforts are based on *free* and *informed* choices, in conditions of *safety* and *dignity*, and in close *consultation* with displacement-affected communities. Key themes include, but are not limited to: safety and security, legal safeguards, civil documentation, housing, land and property rights, gender and child protection, discrimination against certain groups. (See box below table for specific questions to consider for each relevant theme.)
 5. Based on the findings and analysis, complete the IDP Protection Risk Assessment Table below. This table is meant to present risks for specific IDP groups (whether based on location and/or specific identity, vulnerability, etc.) related to solutions initiatives, along with recommended mitigation measures. It is important to *link mitigation measures to applicable law/policy frameworks, as well as local institutions*, as relevant. This is a baseline template to be adapted and refined for usability and applicability for different contexts.

1. [IASC Policy on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons](#), 2024, page 11.

2. Utilize the [Protection Analytical Framework](#) for reference, as well as these [commonly used definitions of protection risks](#) and [related human rights consideration](#) to guide the collation of information.

3. GPC, [Protection Cluster Approach to Joined-Up Protection Analysis Guidance](#), 2024.



Template - IDP Protection Risk Assessment Table

Solutions Initiative	Population group(s) of concern	Risk(s)	Causes & Consequences	Relevant National/Local Institutions, Laws & Policies, Initiatives, etc.	Recommended Risk Mitigation Measures: By whom, to whom, & how
<p><i>Indicate the solutions initiative that has the potential to increase harm if it moves forward without mitigation measures (i.e., ‘safeguards’) in place.</i></p>	<p><i>Indicate the specific group(s) of IDPs of concern (e.g.. in certain locations/ from typically marginalized backgrounds); list multiple groups per initiative as relevant.</i></p>	<p><i>Explain the risk(s) that the IDP group faces if the initiative moves forward; utilize the analysis by theme to inform explanation of the risk.</i></p>	<p><i>Indicate the various causes of the risk and consider the potential consequences if the risk occurs, again utilizing the analysis by theme.</i></p>	<p><i>Identify relevant law and policy frameworks, national/local level institutions or initiatives that may be applicable to mitigation measures and/ or that need strengthening.</i></p>	<p><i>List the recommended mitigation measures here and identify who is responsible for carrying each one forward – with particular consideration for the role of government/local actors -- such as the national ministry or equivalent administrative body responsible for IDPs (if there is one), judiciary, parliament, human rights institutions, etc. -- and applicable national and local laws and policies.</i></p> <p><i>Consider both proactive and reactive measures. Proactive measures are actions implemented based on identified causes of the risk (i.e. addressing the threats). Reactive measures are executed after a risk event occurs, thus addressing the consequences of the risk event occurring (i.e., by reducing vulnerabilities and/ or increasing capacities).</i></p>
<p>[Ex. Government-led camp closures with the intention of “resettling” IDPs to their home areas.]</p>	<p>[Ex. IDPs in protracted situations in X living in camp setting.]</p> <p>[Ex. IDPs from minority group living with local community.]</p>	<p>[Ex. Camp/site closures without viable alternatives are likely to increase vulnerability and suffering and limit progress toward solutions.]</p>	<p>[Ex. Cause: Consultations with communities were conducted but failed to inform policies/planning/decisions Consequence: Solutions initiative carried forward that is not durable and increases vulnerability of displaced communities.]</p>	<p>[Ex. National Human Rights Institution with strong advocacy track records; Local IDP Consultative Bodies (such as IDP Councils) established but not active.]</p>	<p>[Ex. RC, in collaboration with the NHRI, to advocate with local and national authorities to conduct camp closures in line with established guidelines (including X’s national IDP policy and commitments as a signatory to X convention) and involving meaningful participation by IDPs in decision-making.</p> <p>UNCT to mobilize support (such as through training, capacity building) for the active engagement of local IDP consultative bodies to inform gov policies/plans on internal displacement.</p> <p>Donors/development actors engaged to support urban planning and development to allow for local integration/access to services for IDPs in X.]</p>